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ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: **NIOBIUM POWDER FOR CAPACITOR, NIOBIUM SINTERED BODY AND CAPACITOR**

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to niobium powder for a capacitor, comprising a niobium layer and a mixed layer of silicon nitride and niobium, the mixed layer being present in the vicinity of the powder particle surface; granulated niobium powder thereof; a niobium sintered body using the niobium powder and the granulated powder; and a capacitor using the sintered body as one electrode. The niobium powder for a capacitor of the present invention enables to produce a niobium capacitor having a high capacitance, a low leakage current, a low ESR and good tan δ characteristics and being excellent particularly in the properties of the breakdown voltage and soldering heat resistance.

WO 2005/045860 A1